SHAUN STEVEN STRUBLE + SINA GRACE

THE LI'L DEPRESSED BOY™

NUMBER ONE

SUPPOSED TO BE THERE, TOO

image®

PREVIOUSLY IN...
THE LI'L DEPRESSED BOY
LDB IS A TWENTY-SOMETHING LIVING IN AMARILLO, TEXAS.
UNHAPPY WITH SELF-SECLUSION AND BEING LONELY, LDB DECIDED TO MAKE A CHANGE AND SEARCH FOR HAPPINESS OUTSIDE THE CONFINES OF HIS APARTMENT.
HE MET A GIRL NAMED JAZZ, WHO HE FELT A GOOD CONNECTION WITH.
LDB THOUGHT HE'D FOUND THE GIRL OF HIS DREAMS, AND THEY STARTED DATING.
ONLY WHEN HE MET HER ACTUAL BOYFRIEND, HE REALIZED THE RELATIONSHIP WAS ONLY IN HIS MIND.
HE WAS DEVASTATED.
HIS BEST FRIEND, DREW BLOOD, SOUGHT TO CHEER HIM UP WITH A ROAD TRIP TO SEE ONE OF HIS FAVORITE BANDS.
DESPITE NARROWLY AVOIDING ARREST, MISSING MOST OF THE SHOW, AND RUNNING INTO JAZZ AGAIN, LDB RETURNED HOME WITH A SMILE ON HIS FACE.
HAPPY, BUT BROKE, LDB GOT A JOB AT A MOVIE THEATRE.
ROYAL
SURE, IT'S A TEENAGER'S JOB, BUT IT ALLOWED HIM TO KEEP THE LIGHTS ON.
ALSO, HE MET SPIKE THERE.
HI...
SHE RECIPROCATED HIS FEELINGS, BUT BEING HIS MANAGER THEY HAD TO DATE IN SECRET BECAUSE IT WAS AGAINST COMPANY RULES.
THEY GOT CAUGHT.
RATTED OUT BY ANOTHER MANAGER, TOBY, THEY WERE BOTH SUSPENDED FOR MISCONDUCT.
IN A CONFRONTATION THAT FOLLOWED, TOBY PUNCHED LDB.
KRAK!
NOW IT'S THE FIRST DAY OF THEIR SUSPENSION.
SPIKE AND LDB HAVE TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO SPEND THIS UNEXPECTED TIME OFF...

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

"ALWAYS SOMETHING IN MY BLINDSPOT"

S. STEVEN STRUBLE
(ILLITERATERAINBOW.COM – @STRUBLE)
WRITING, COLORING, LETTERING

SINA GRACE
(SINAGRACE.COM – @SINAGRACE)
PENCILING, INKING

NICHOLAS BRANDT
(@NICHOLASBRANDT)
EDITING, MOTIVATING

ZACHARY TROVER
(@ZTROVER)
DESIGNING

L.J. CHASE
ASSISTANT EDITING

TOO HECTIC BY TROVER & STRUBLE
PIN-UP BY KANILA TRIPP

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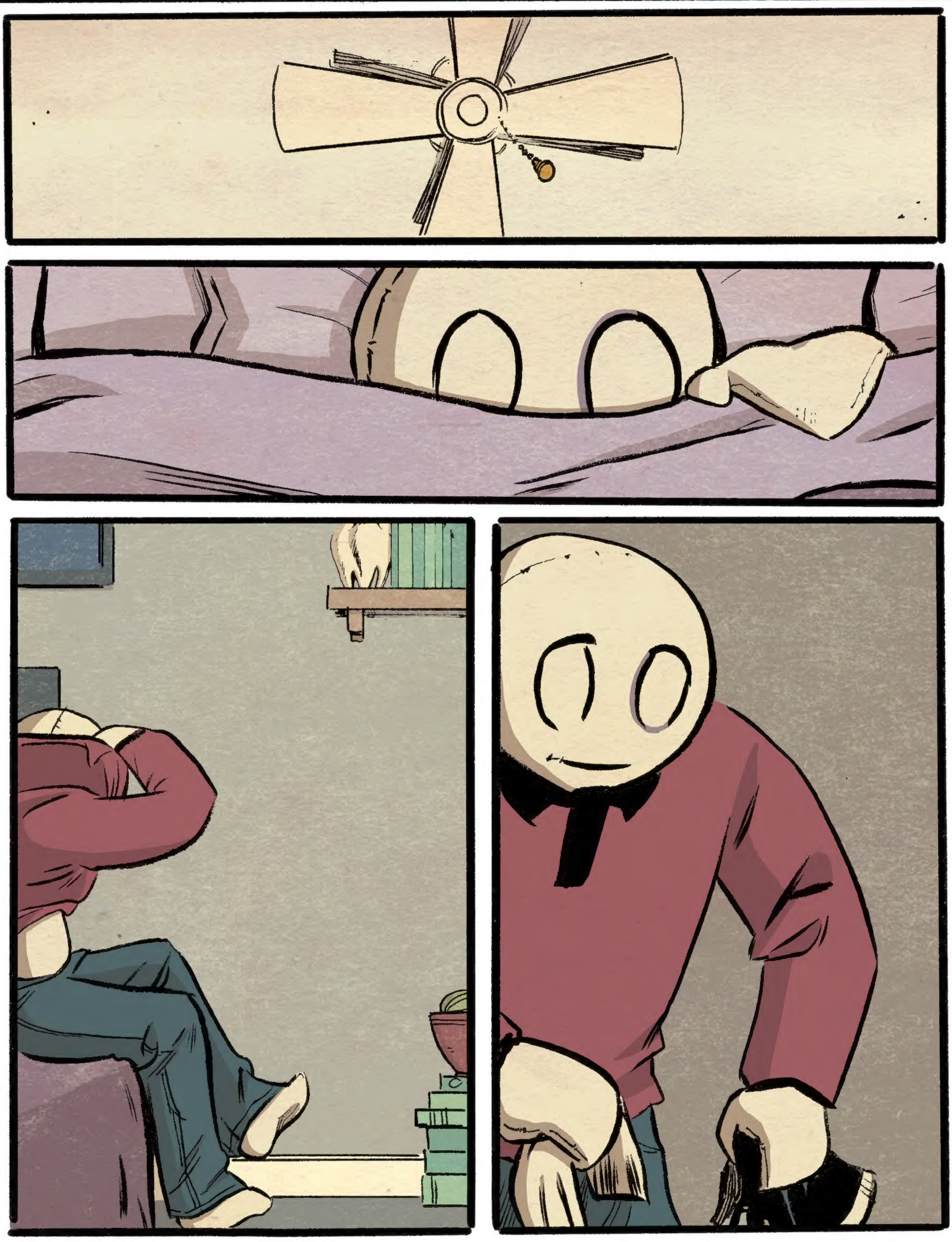


GOOD MORNING.

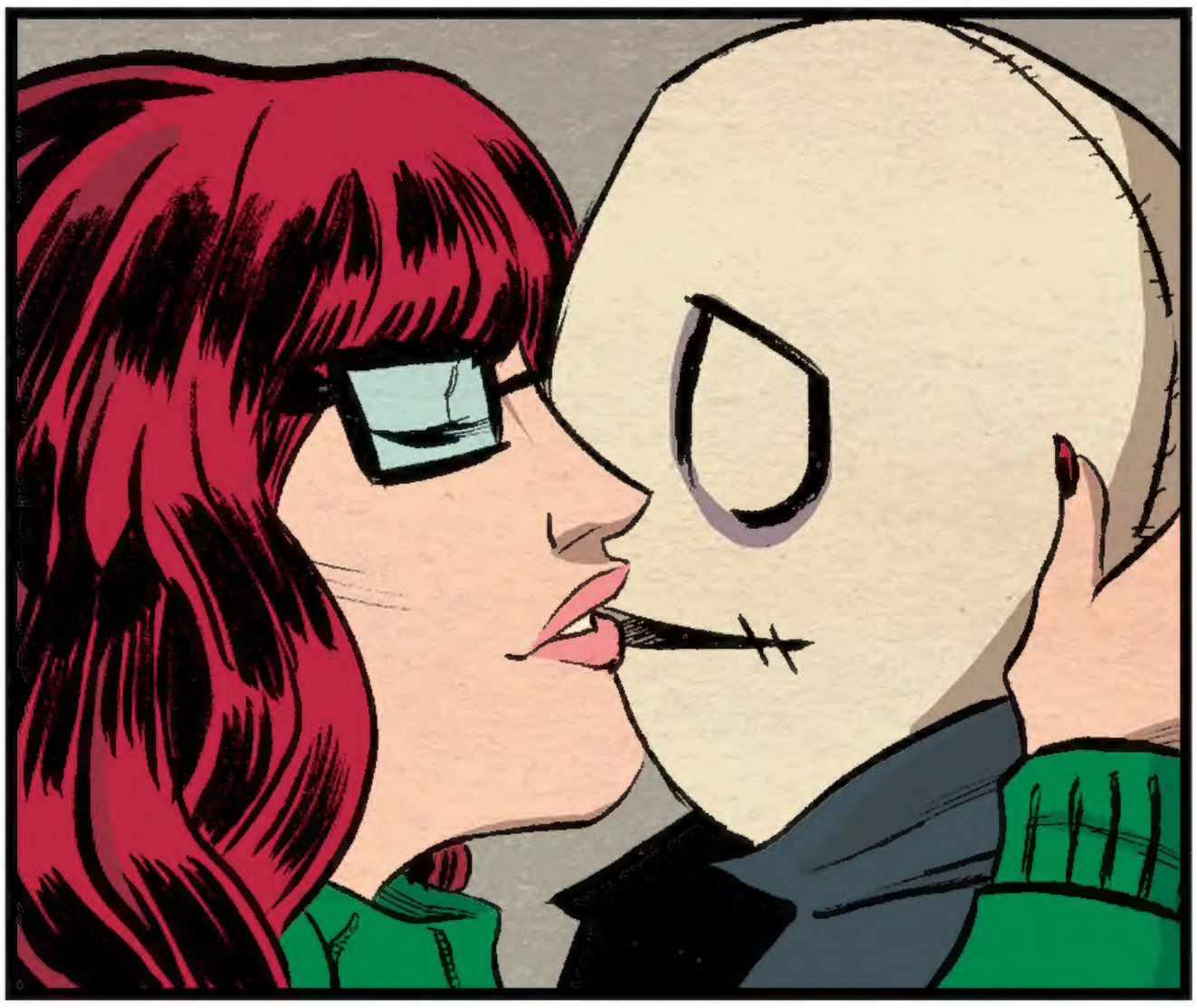
I SEE YOU FINALLY CHOSE TO WAKE UP.

YEAH.

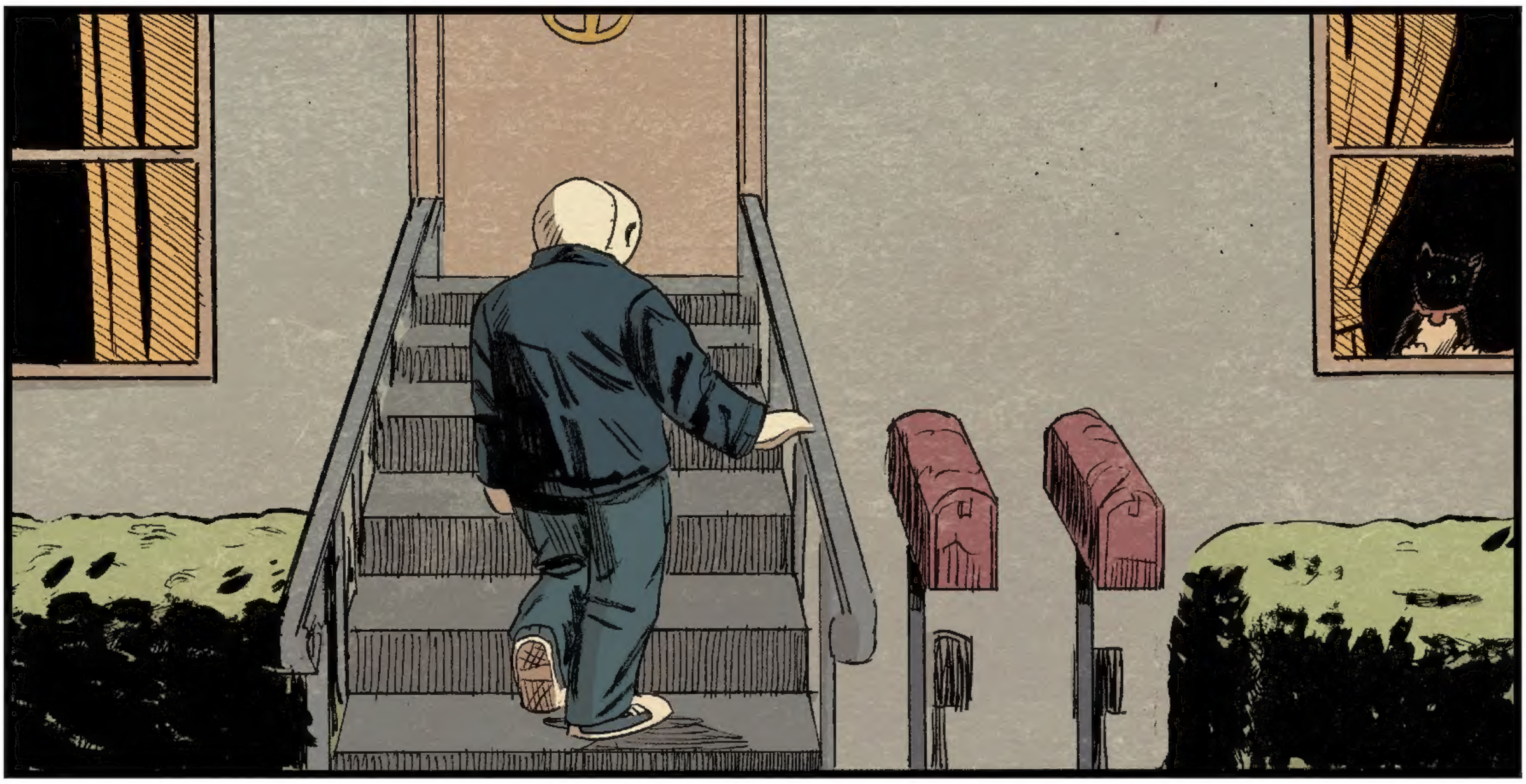
WELL, WE'VE GOT THE WHOLE WEEK OFF.

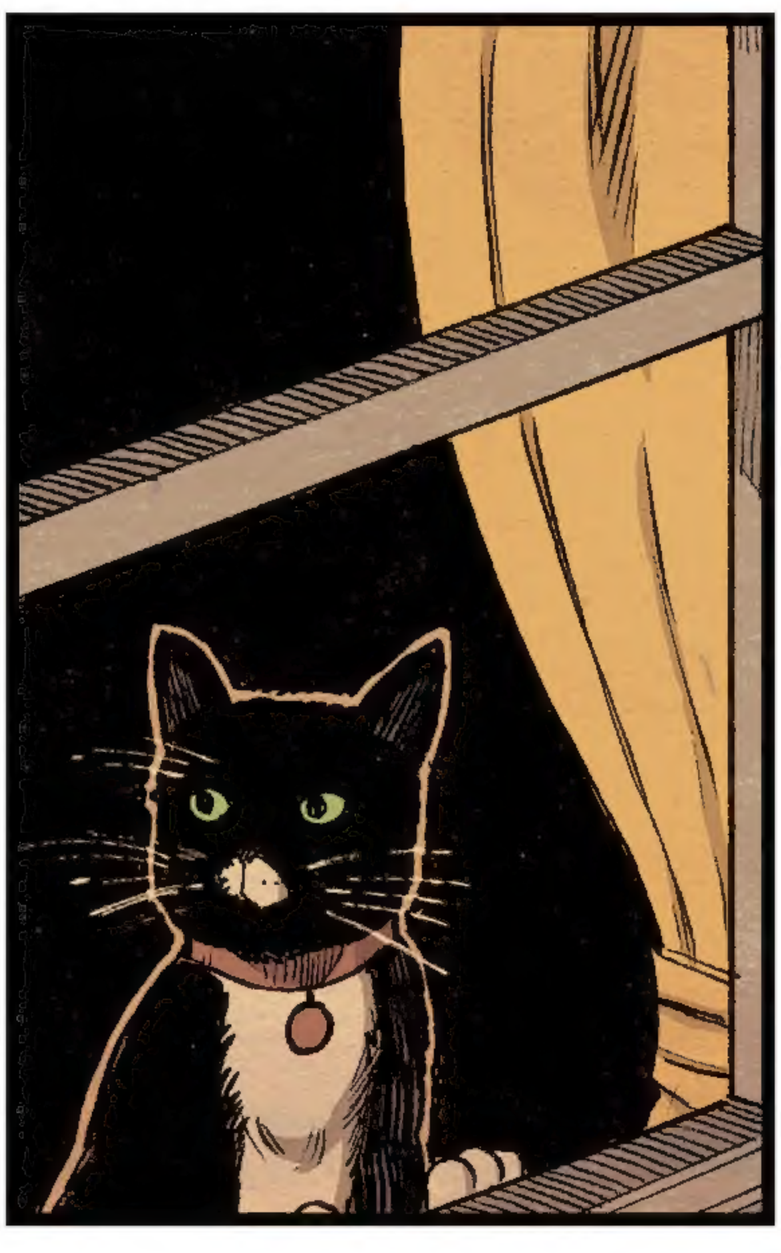
GUESS WE SHOULD START FIGURING OUT HOW WE'RE GOING TO SPEND IT.

YEAH.

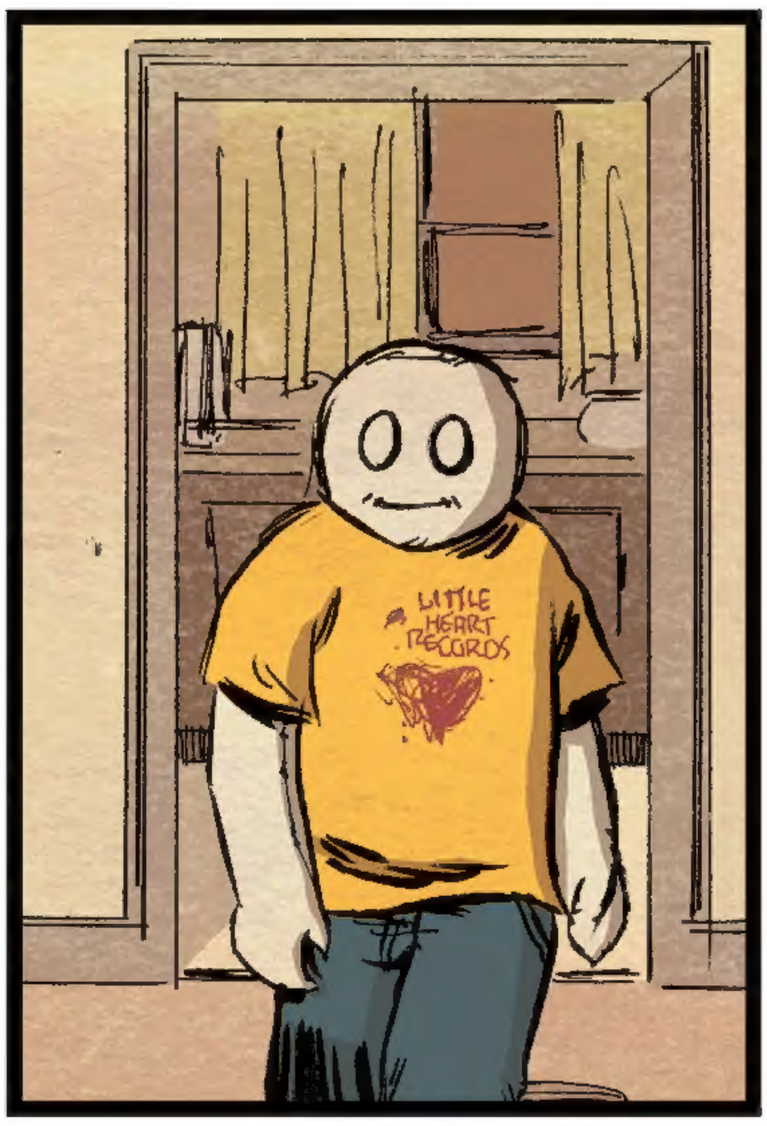


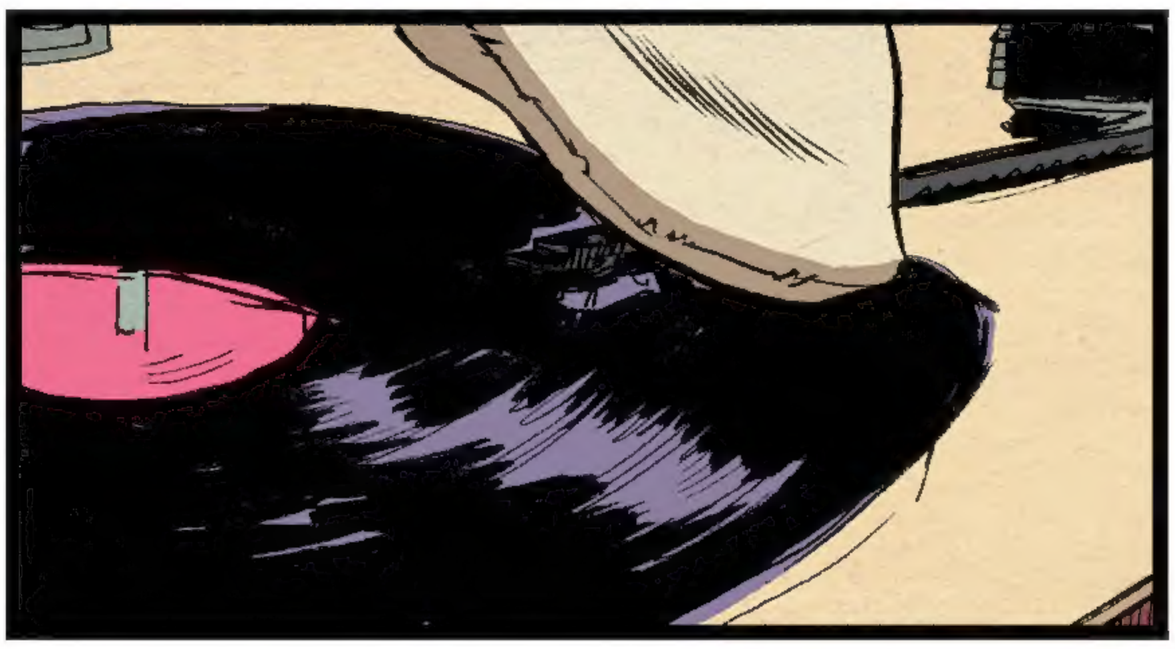
I'LL COME PICK YOU UP WHEN I'M FINISHED WITH CLASS.
BYE!





MREW...


LITTLE
HEART
RECORDS



LITTLE
HEART
RECORDS
* "COST CONTROL" — DOG PARTY

SO WHEN DO I GET TO MEET THE GIRL?

WHERE IS THIS *SPIKE?*

SHE HAS CLASS, TODAY.

SHE'S GOING TO PICK ME UP FOR DINNER.

AH.

WELL, I'M DOING A SECRET SHOW TONIGHT AFTER THE OPEN MIC.

YOU SHOULD BRING HER BY.

I DON'T KNOW IF SHE'D BE INTO SIDESHOW STUFF, DREW.

JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE TOO SQUEAMISH TO WATCH, DOESN'T MEAN EVERYONE ELSE IS.

WAIT.

ISN'T THIS YOUR OFF-SEASON?

YEAH.

I GOT AN OFFER THE OTHER DAY.

A BUNCH OF FAMOUS COMEDIANS ARE GOING OUT WITH SOME SIDESHOW ACTS, AND I'M GOING TO TAKE PART.

IT'S A FULL-ON NATIONAL TOUR.

WOW.

I'M DOING A COUPLE OF SECRET LOCAL SHOWS, TO SHARPEN MY STICK.

THAT IS A REALLY HUGE OPPORTUNITY.

WAY TO GO!

THANKS.

I'M REALLY EXCITED.

ARE YOU GOING TO TELL ME WHERE YOU GOT THAT SHINER?

OH.

I GOT INTO A FIGHT AT WORK.

AFTER SPIKE AND I GOT SUSPENDED, TOBY GOT IN SPIKE'S FACE TELLING HER SHE DESERVED WORSE.

I GOT IN THE MIDDLE, AND HE SWUNG ON ME.

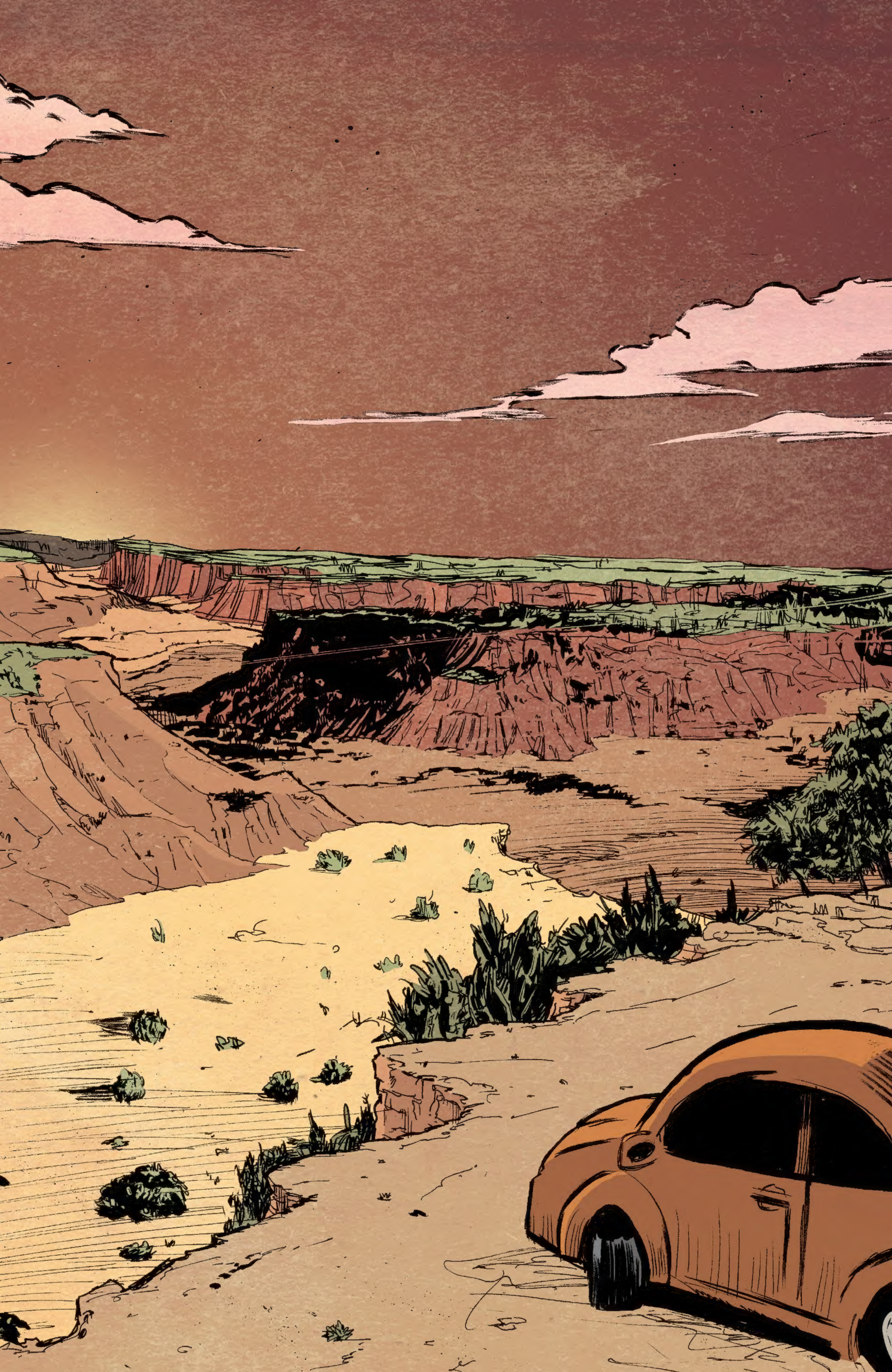
HIT ME PRETTY GOOD IN THE EYE.

YOWCH.

IS HE GOING TO GET AWAY WITH THAT?

I DON'T KNOW.

I HAVEN'T REPORTED HIM, YET.



SORRY.
DROPPED A FRY.
YUM
LITTLE HEART RECORDS

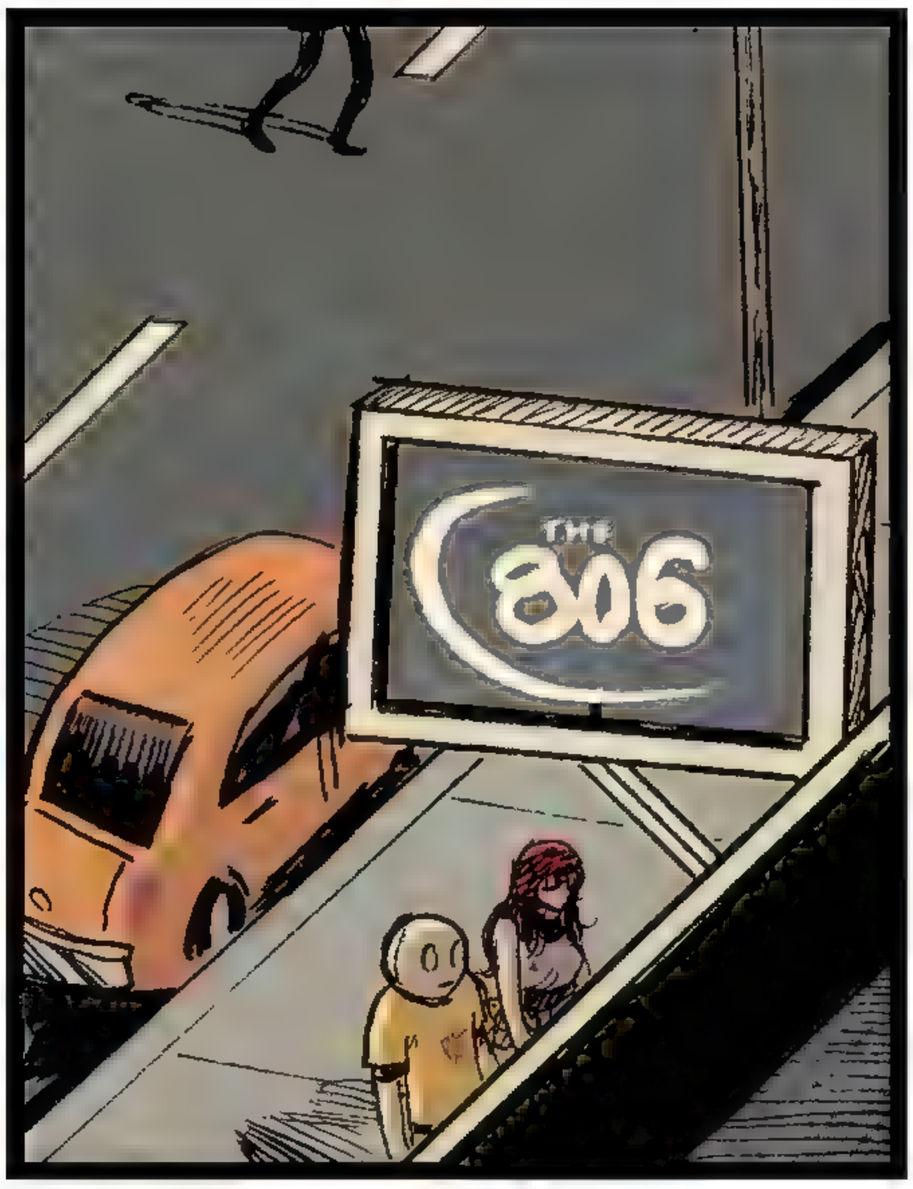
HOW WAS CLASS?
LEARN ANYTHING FUN AND SCIENCY TODAY?
LITTLE HEART RECORDS

ALRIGHT.

I'M STILL JUST GETTING ALL MY BASICS OUT OF THE WAY.
TO REALLY GET IN TO THE PHYSICS, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO TRANSFER TO A BIGGER SCHOOL THAT ACTUALLY HAS THAT AS PART OF THE CURRICULUM.

THAT MAKES SENSE.

YOU READY TO GO?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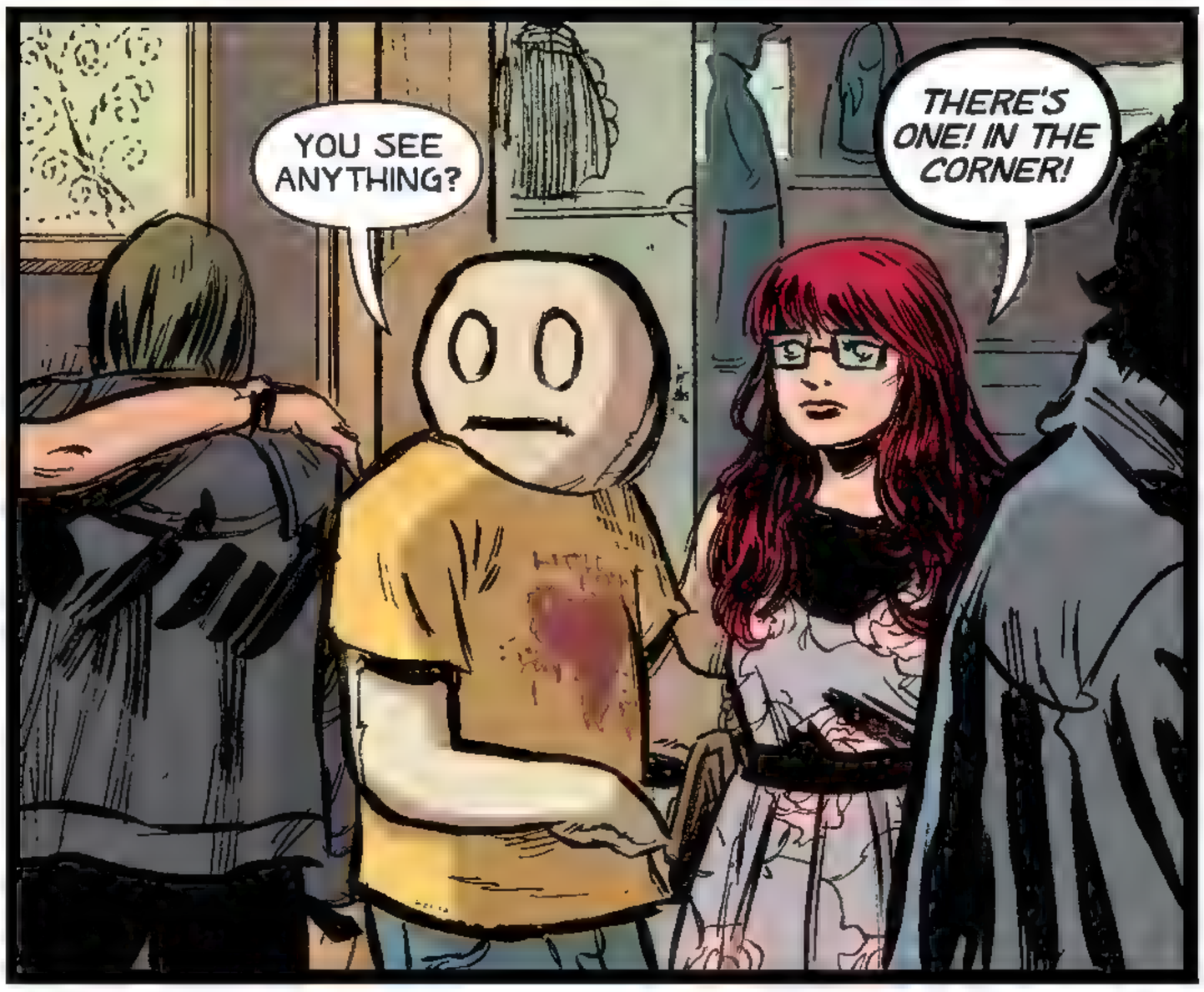
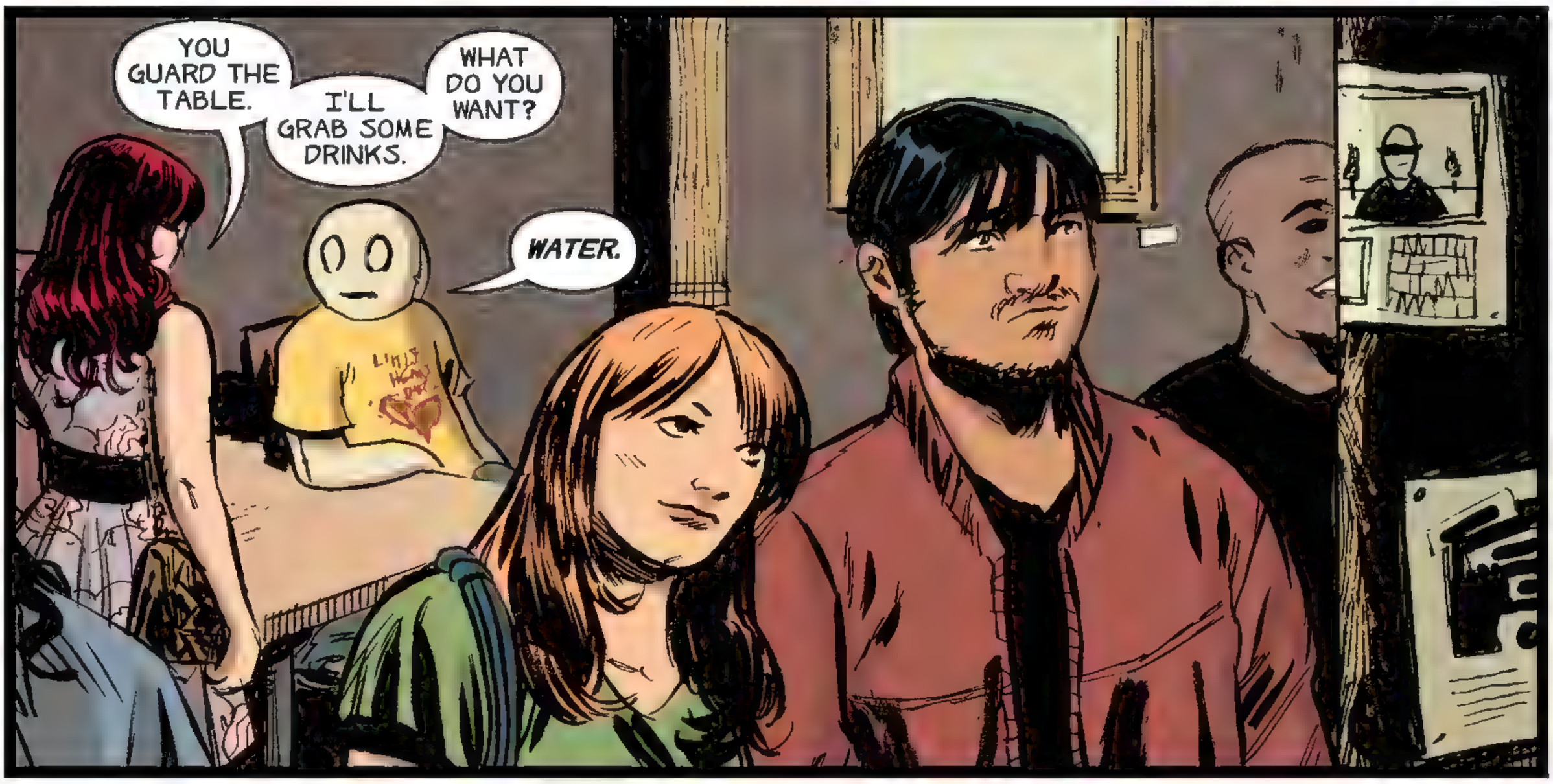

YOU SEE ANYTHING?
THERE'S ONE! IN THE CORNER!


YOU GUARD THE TABLE.
I'LL GRAB SOME DRINKS.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WATER.

CAN I STEAL ONE OF YOUR CHAIRS?
SURE.
GO AHEAD.

LDB!
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN FOREVER!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
...
OH...
YEAH...
UM.
I GOT A JOB.
THAT WOULD EXPLAIN IT.
A LOT HAS BEEN HAPPENING WITH ME: JET AND I BROKE UP, SO I HAD TO MOVE OUT. I'M NOW LIVING DOWN THE STREET FROM YOU. I GOT A DOG...

OHISEEYOU'VE MADEAFRIENDWHILE IWASGETTINGDRINKS WHOISTHIS?

YOU MUST BE LDB'S GIRLFRIEND...

UH... *SPIKE.*

WELL, SPIKE.

AREN'T YOU SUPER CUTE?

SO, HOW'D YOU TWO MEET? YOU BEEN GOING OUT LONG? WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST DATE?

LITTLE HEART RECORDS

ARE YOU HERE TO PERFORM?

OH, NO.

WE'RE JUST HERE TO WATCH.

ARE YOU?

NO.

MY ART IS LESS OF A PERFORMANCE VARIETY.

I PREFER TO EXPRESS MYSELF WITH THE BRUSH.

I CALL THIS *"A STUDY IN NUDE."*

LITTLE HEART RECORDS

WELL, IT WAS GREAT MEETING YOU, SPIKE!

WE SHOULD HANG OUT SOMETIME.

LDB HAS MY NUMBER.

DARRYL!

DON'T YOU DARE TRY TO GET AWAY FROM ME!

UM.
WHO WAS THAT?
MY EX...
WELL, NOT REALLY MY EX.
MY "SORT-OF" EX.
LITTLE HEART RECORDS
WHAT EXACTLY IS A "SORT-OF" EX?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
CAN WE JUST GO?
I DON'T WANT TO BE HERE ANYMORE.
LITTLE HEART RECORDS
HOLD UP.
WHAT HAPPENED?

JAZZ AND I'S RELATIONSHIP IS *AWKWARD.*

WE MET EARLY LAST YEAR.

WE HUNG OUT FOR AWHILE, AND IN MY MIND WE WERE DATING...

...BUT, TO HER, WE WERE *NOT.*

SHE INTRODUCED ME TO HER BOYFRIEND IN THE MIDDLE OF WHAT I THOUGHT WAS A DATE.

IT MADE ME SECOND GUESS MYSELF FOR A LONG WHILE.

I THOUGHT I WAS OVER IT BY NOW, BUT I'VE BEEN AVOIDING HER SO IT WAS KIND OF EASY TO PUT IT ASIDE.

IT STILL HURTS.

LITTLE HEART RECORDS

OKAY.

WE CAN GO.

LDB!

YOU'RE HERE!

YOU MUST BE SPIKE!

AND YOU'RE MR. DREW BLOOD.

PLEASED TO MEET YOU.

I'M GLAD YOU GUYS MADE IT.

YOU'RE JUST IN TIME!

I'M ABOUT TO GO ON.

THE PLACE IS PRETTY PACKED, BUT THE FIRE DEPARTMENT HASN'T SHOWED UP TO KICK ANYONE OUT, YET.

I BET WE CAN FIT YOU IN.

ACTUALLY.

WE WERE JUST LEAVING...

LITTLE HEART RECORD

OH.

...TO GET SOME FRESH AIR.

YOU KNOW HOW LDB IS.

HEJUSTWANTS TOMENTALLYPREPARE HIMSELFBEFOREWATCHING YOURACT.

HA.

HE DOES HAVE A DELICATE CONSTITUTION.

I'LL SEE YOU GUYS INSIDE ONCE YOU'VE CAUGHT YOUR BREATH.

LET'S NOT LET HER RUIN EVERYONE'S NIGHT.

YOUR FRIEND IS COUNTING ON YOU TO HAVE FUN AND SUPPORT HIM.

OUR EYES WILL BE ON DREW THE WHOLE TIME.

YOU WON'T HAVE TO INTERACT WITH HER ANYMORE TONIGHT, I PROMISE.

OKAY.

PLEASE REMEMBER, I'M A TRAINED PROFESSIONAL.

YOU SHOULD NEVER ATTEMPT ANYTHING I DO WITH YOUR OWN POWER TOOLS.

NNK!

LITTLE HEART 25

AND NOW I NEED A LITTLE HELP FROM A MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE...

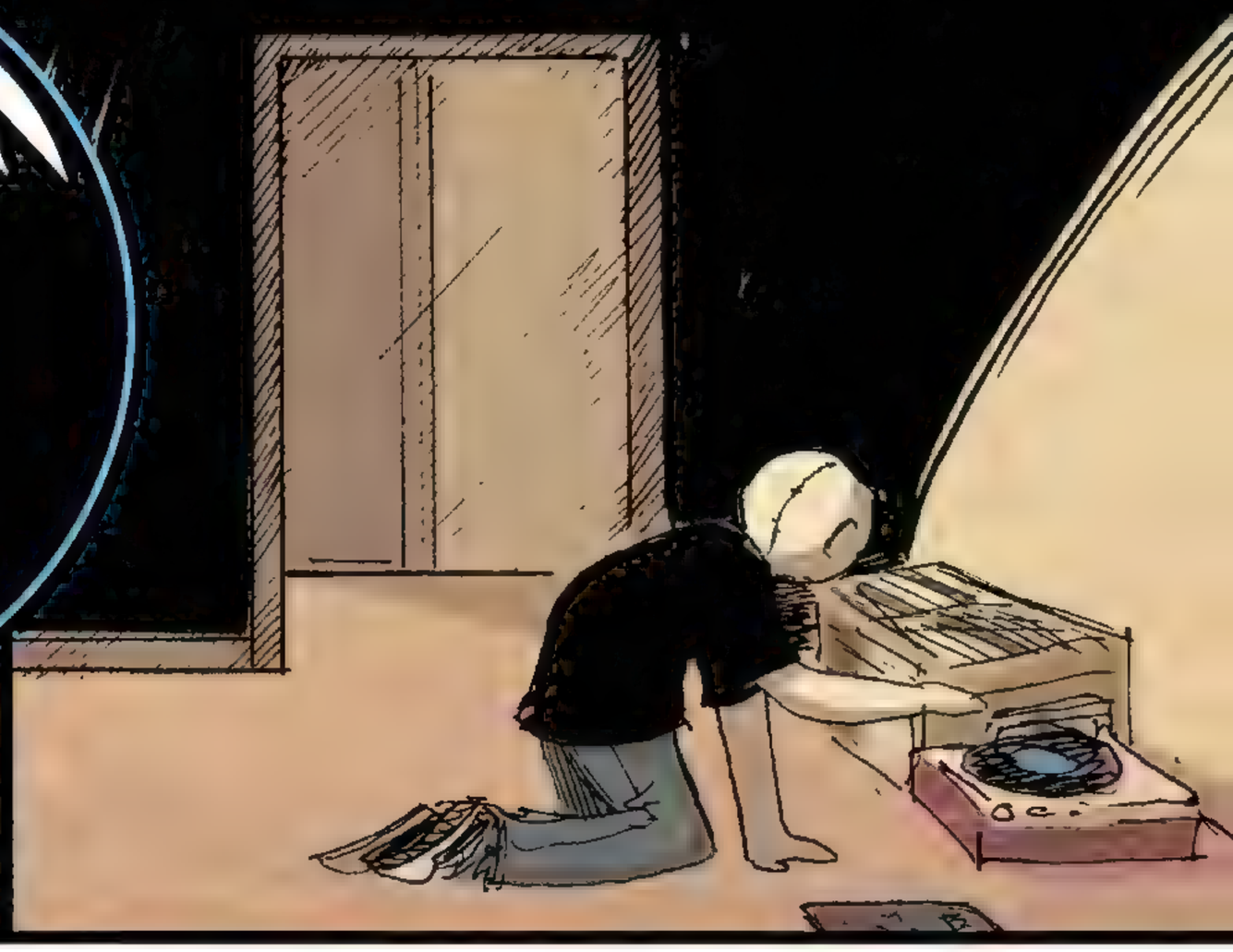
...HOW ABOUT YOU, SIR. THE YOUNG MAN IN THE YELLOW SHIRT.

LITTLE HEART RECORDS

SOMEHOW MORE THAN JUST SOUND.

BY MISTERS STRUBLE & GRACE

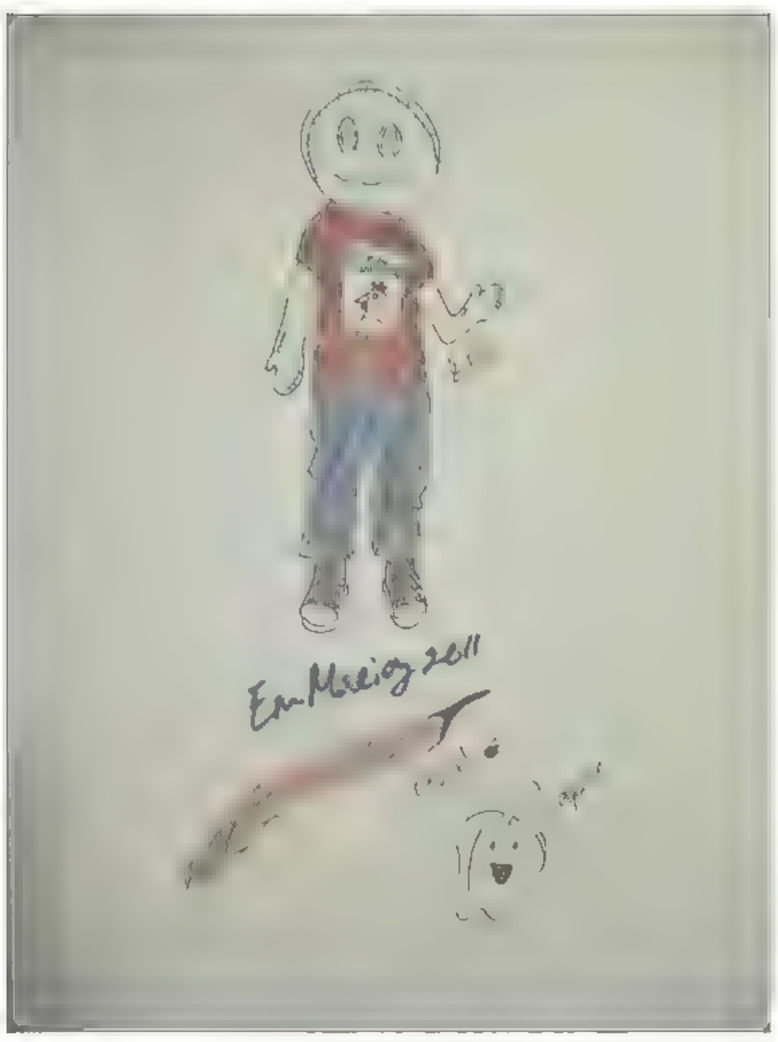
DEPRESSEDBOYCOMIC@GMAIL.COM



Readers Old, Readers New: Welcome!
For those of you who are not familiar, the following pages are dedicated to the friends and family we've made, whether on-line or on the road. This book does not exist without the love and support of folks like you, and for that we've got this here letters column to show our gratitude.
We are absolutely thrilled to be back on the stands, with a new chapter in the lackadaisical adventures of LDB that is truly our best yet. While we cannot promise you shifting multiverses and complicated backstories, the next few issues will follow LDB as his work life, social life, and love life throw some complicated curveballs his way. There's plenty of fun stuff ahead too, we swear!
Now, as promised, let's dive into your letters!

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?!
Everyone, Ever

The last issue of the Li'l Depressed Boy shipped in March of 2013. It's now October of 2014. It's been a year and a half between issues. When we closed out that last issue we said we were going to take some time to get the book ahead of schedule. Obviously, this has taken more time than expected.
In the intervening time, we have been keeping busy. Struble up and moved from Amarillo to Dallas. Sina started a comic called Burn the Orphanage. The Li'l Depressed Boy was translated and localized for both Russia and France. We also both went to a lot of concerts.
But now we are back! Hope you enjoyed the first issue of the new series.



EMMACIASART, DEVIANT ART

COMIC-CON INTERNATIONAL, 2014

Dear S. Steven Struble,

I'm severely depressed and it seems like that no matter what I do, it will never end with my thoughts drifting... southwards. Now, I say that but that doesn't mean I don't find any small periods of joy and happiness. Your book, from my experience so far, is a perfect catalyst for one of those periods.

I remember the first time I discovered LI'L DEPRESSED BOY and how helpful it has proven to be. I would end up getting each sequential volume until I discovered that there wasn't a single page left unread since 'Love is a Place' had just been released as a collected trade and the series- put on hiatus. I was without words from the very first page I read; I was drawn in and it was as though I had found a kindred spirit but all for naught as it seemed essentially over with. Reading LDB was a relief for me, a way to escape but not to my usual preference of superhero escapism but to follow a likeminded hero as he drudges through life trying to find something more, as I must. Finding out about the hiatus, in my hyperbolic mind, was like a realization that the world was ending.

Your writing and Sina Grace's brilliant/wholly unique artwork has a way of capturing and inspiring me with it's depiction of the world in stark realism, only subverted by LDB's own nonexistent physical appearance, that is unrivaled. LDB's world has a real, lived-in feel comprised by the light and the darkness of everyday life that while reading, I often found myself brightening up with hope, not only with the constant realization that I'm not alone but of the possibility of a bigger world and more adventure if I just escape from my own walls.... and perhaps if I find my very own Drew Blood to have my back, though that latter may just be my own wishful thinking. LDB speaks in such an authenticity though that I just can't help but feel a little less alone and understood that I want to reach out and sincerely thank you for all of your work.

Anyways, a few days ago, when I saw the solicitations listing the return for Oct. 1st, I practically ran to my LCS to make sure they would mark me down as a subscriber to the series. Something I admitting couldn't wait to do since I first read a interview with Sina Grace with CBR where he revealed that a LDB return this year was imminent. I don't yet own any of the previous single issues and 'Supposed To Be There, Too" #1 will be my first but I am anxiously awaiting the chance that I can get my hands on all of them so I can proudly say I do (they will no doubt be the jewel of the long box.)

So I sit here now, day by day, growing anxious waiting to find out what kind of screwballs life will throw at our hero- even if it seems to be the return of a certain cold-hearted monster of a woman who shall not be named. I can't wait. I know deep down you and Sina Grace won't let me down with a subpar story but certainly something I can learn from if I just remember that the hard times are only momentary and the bad will always seem insurmountable if I keeping dwelling on it too long. Also, I probably will

JUSTIN CASTANEDA, INSTAGRAM

learn of a band that I have never listened to before that I will be thankful for learning about.

Thank you again so much for being there and making this little depressed boy feel a little less alone in the world.

Keep up the great work,
Robert Ward
Beaverville, IL

Thank you for all the kind words, Robert. Struble often says he writes the series from the point of view of "You are not alone." And it's true. Only he is telling himself that he is not alone, and letters like yours confirm this to be true. You don't know how much this means to us.

I started reading The Li'l Depressed Boy because a good friend of mine, Joe Willis, recommended it to me. I had just been through a break up and the story of LDB really helped me through it. I felt like I had a friend who understood me. I was bummed when I got to the end of the fourth trade and found out that there wasn't more to read. I followed Sina Grace and Shaun Steven Struble on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook to get updates on their work, and I was overjoyed when Supposed to Be There Too was announced. LDB is my favorite comic character and I'm glad he's coming back. Long live LDB!

Brantz M. Woolsey

Thank you for your patience, Brantz!

My heart aches every time I think of this book.. A wildly poetic series that proves again and again that what counts is always what's on the inside... the most amazing story about a most extraordinary man and one day I hope he'll be able to see himself the way we do... beautiful.

Dave Smith

Dave, thank you so much. Those are very kind words. Coincidentally, you share a name with one of Struble's synthesizer heroes. Not a bad name to have.

Is it Ironic that I've been depressesed without Li'l Depressed Boy? Can't wait for his return so I won't be any longer.

Brent Alley

Well, hopefully this issue brightened your spirits, Brent. If not, we'll try again next month.

All I want to say is that Sina and I are BFF.
Michelangelo Accettura III

We can neither confirm or deny this statement at this time, so we've presented it without comment.

JENNA HODGES-STRUBLE, INSTAGRAM

ANDY MANLEY, INSTAGRAM

It has been a real joy reading L'il Depressed Boy with friends. Going through the series felt like there were many moments that gave me a good connection with the LDB yet there were a lot more moments that felt like watching in awe. I thank Struble and Grace for for the awesome comic and hope to read a lot more.

Rahmon Alimi

Glad to hear you share the book with your friends, Rahmon! We appreciate your help spreading the word.

Li'l Depressed Boy was like reading my own life in sequential art form. The writing by S. Steven Struble captures the raw emotions of someone navigating the day to day life. Coupled with Sina Grace, probably the best artist working today, amazing art that is expressive, beautiful and heartbreaking all at once. I for one am very happy to see the book back on the shelf.

Kevin Michael McConnell

We get that line about the book ripping off people's lives a lot. A lot of us must be living VERY SIMILAR lives.

Since printing my letter in the last issue of LDB asking why LDB was getting more action than me, well in the time since I have gotten engaged

Take that universe!
Chris J Vaughn

Woohoo! Congratulations, Chris.

Hi LDB Guys,

I got my letter published on issue #16, which i gotta say was one of the best moments of my liking comics (and i once got to work for Phil Jimenez). Not only that, but over the summer i exchanged emails with Struble, they were concerning an order but still, and on top of that last month i wrote a piece about your comic for the blog that houses my ramblings and Struble faved it on twitter. And I can't even begin to explain how frickin cool that felt. I don't really have a question, I just wanted to say how much your work means and to thank for making the world a less crappy by writing this.

Keep on going strong,
Nicolas Tapia McCandless

Thanks, Nicolas!

Dear sir(s),

Are you a police?

You have to tell me if you're a police. Them's the rules.

Matthew Haas

Nope. We are private operatives working for the Continental Detective Agency.

Dear Li'l Depressed Boy,

As Groovie Ghoulies says "If you don't want me staring at you night and day here's what you're gonna have to do:

You'll have to sew my eyes up real, real tight, 'cause I become a zombie around you." Can't wait for LDB!!!

Raul Rodarte,
Amarillo, TX

Raul, you know how to sing your way into our hearts.

If I was only allowed to read one comic for the rest of my life it would be Li'l Depressed Boy! I love it that much.

Matthew Gibbs

Oh jeez, Matthew! Let's hope it never comes to that. This world is way better with a selection of comics. Struble would die without his Green Lanterns.

I love li'l depressed boy can't wait for what is coming, great new bands and songs on the way!

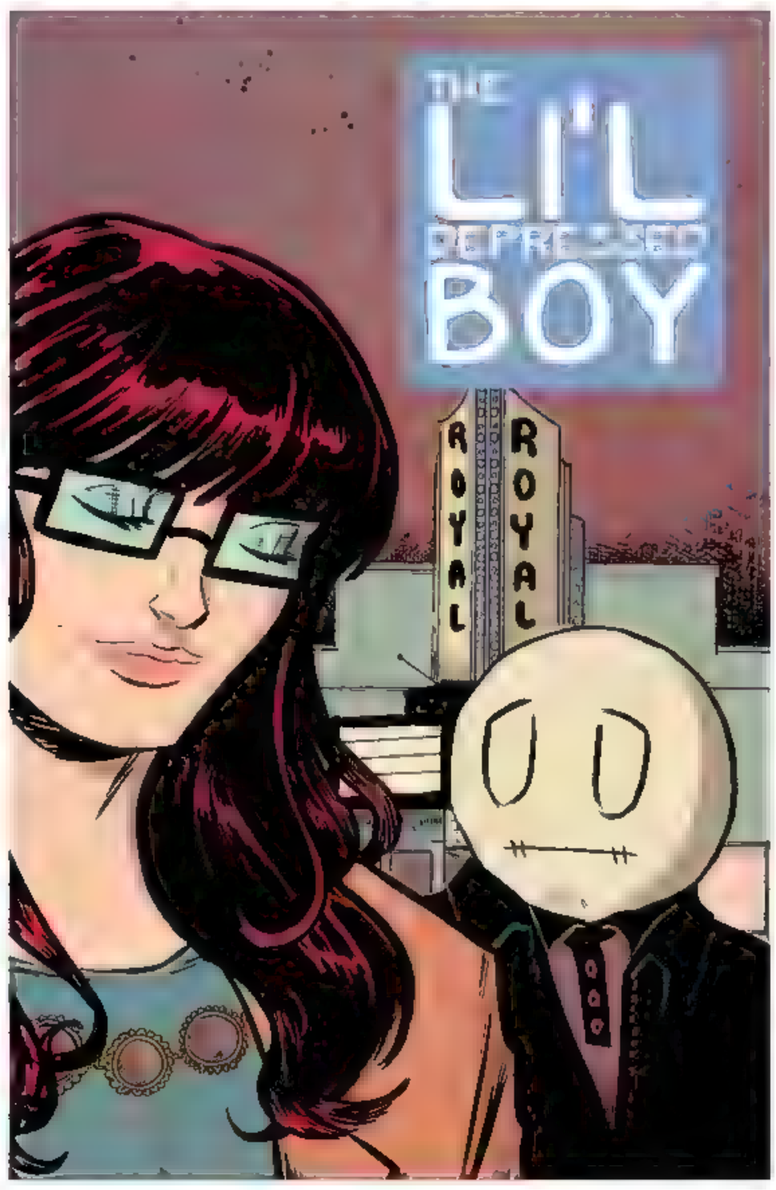
Pedro

Thanks, Pedro. We hope you enjoy the Dog Party song that LDB listens to in this issue!

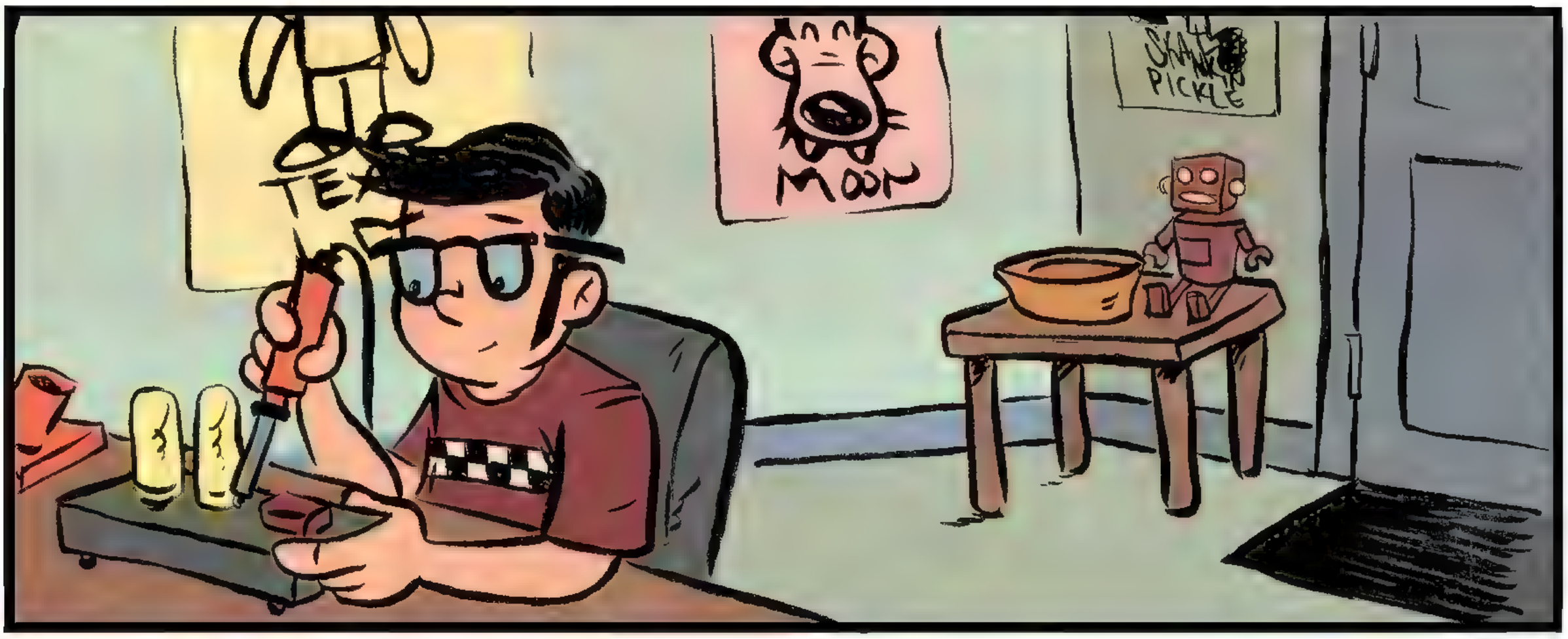
Okay, we're back on the grind for issue two. Please feel free to write in your thoughts, musings, drawings, playlists, etc. to DepressedBoyComic@gmail.com. If you'd like to show your support, our social media handles and proper hash tags are under our credits on the inner front cover.

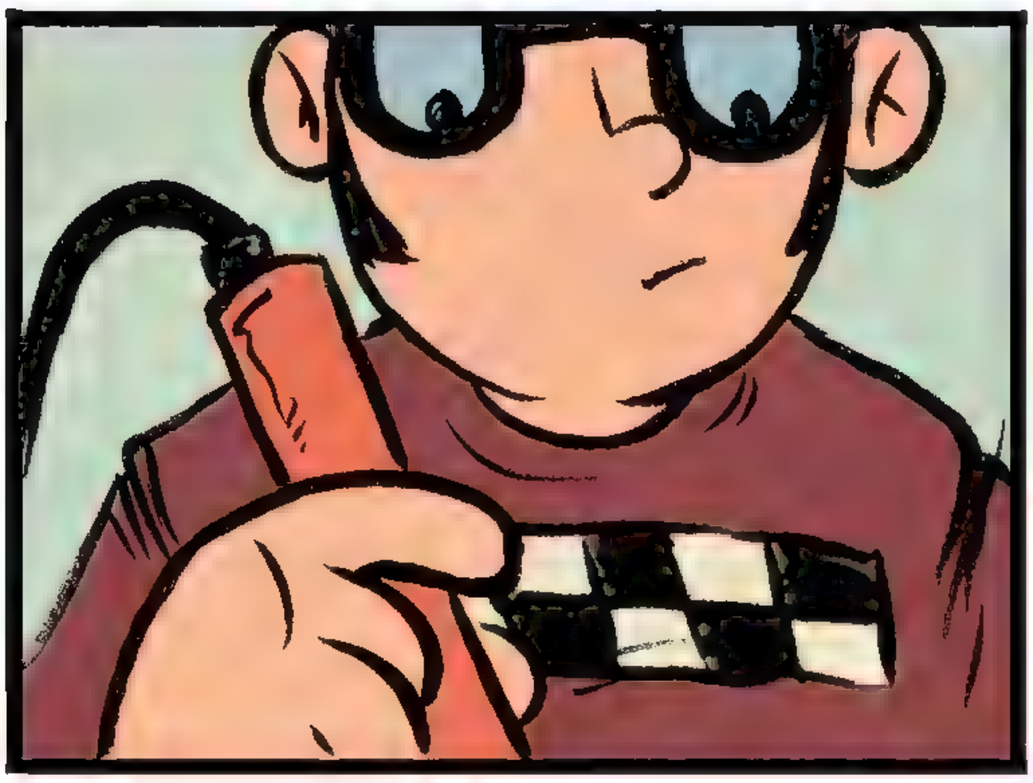
See you in a month,
Shaun Steven Struble & Sina Grace

The Li'l Depressed Boy
P.O. Box 835091
Richardson, TX
75083



NEXT TIME:
As his friend's life opens up into new opportunities, LDB must stand up for himself at his own job.


MOM
SHANKIN' PICKLE



HEY, RUDY.
WHAT'D YOU DO NOW?
DEVO

NOTHING.
JUST DOING A LITTLE READING AND THOUGHT I'D COME CHECK ON YOU.
WHAT'RE YOU WORKING ON?

SCOTT'S AMP.
IT'S BEEN ACTING UP.

WHAT WERE YOU READING, CHIP?
JUST A BOOK.
UH.
FROM THE BOOKSHELF.
WHICH BOOKSHELF?
BANG!
BANG!
BANG!
DEVO

PICK IT UP!
PICK IT UP!
UH.
THE "FORBIDDEN" SHELF.
SIGH
GO GET THE BOOK.
T-TSK!
T-TSK!
ON IT!

HERE YOU GO.

NUH-UH.

YOU'RE FIXING THIS ONE.

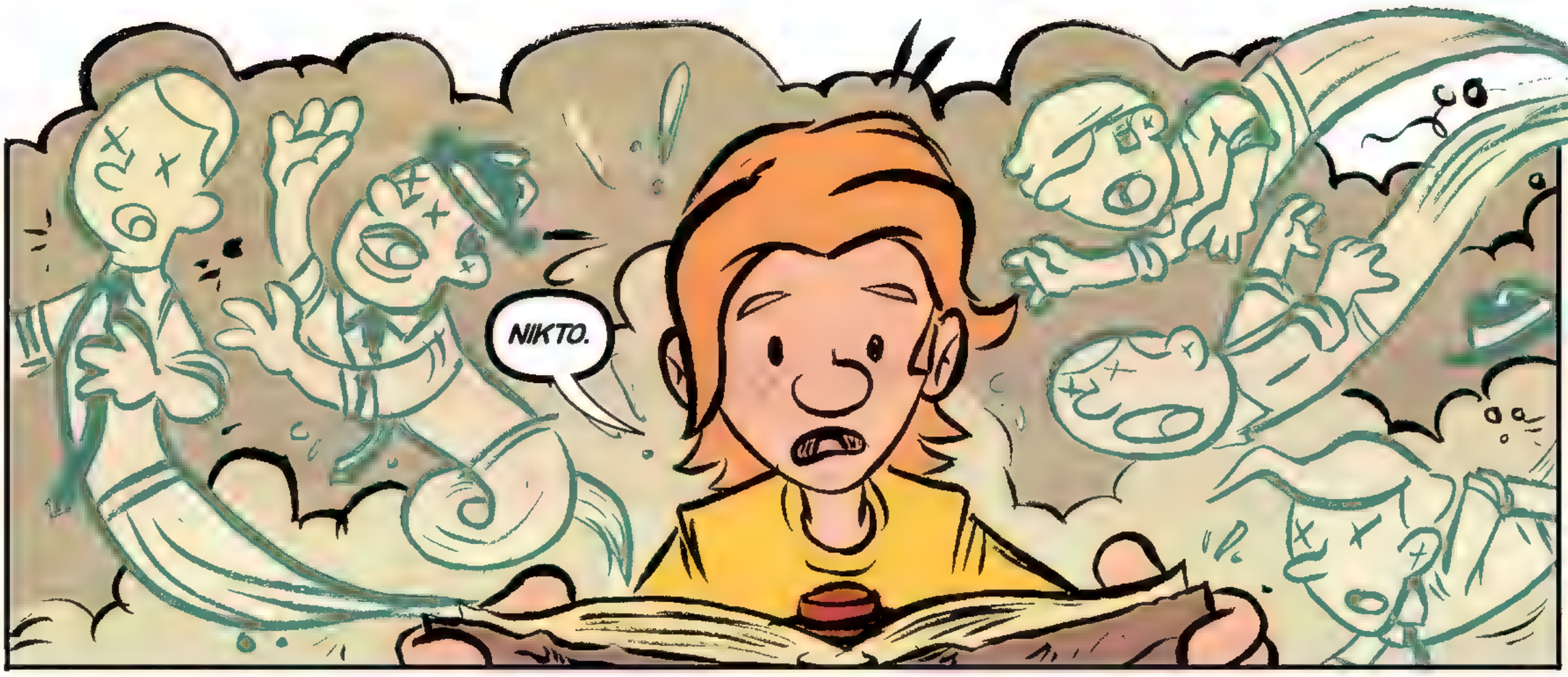
WHAT DO I DO?

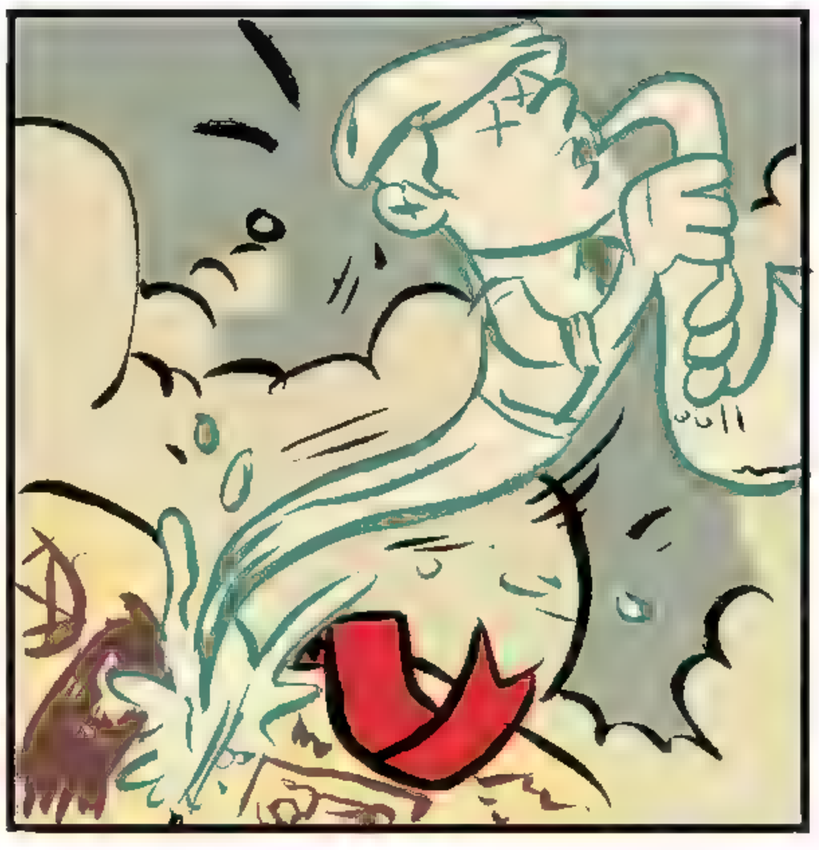
PAGE 73 -- THE ONE WITH THE BOOKMARK.

READ THE HIGHLIGHTED SECTION.

KLATUU...

BERAADA...





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